

OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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Weather: Cooler weather was found in some counties across the State; other counties stayed hot and dry. Showers in Clackamas and Marion counties helped moisture levels somewhat, but overall were not enough to offset the lack of spring rainfall. Drought conditions in Coos and Curry counties have continued into the fourth consecutive year, causing some concern for agriculture and forestry officials. Josephine County had some measurable precipitation later in the week. Oregon is still in need of solid, consistent precipitation. Gilliam County experienced some hail, almost an inch in diameter. Harney County had some frost-like conditions earlier in the week, and warmer nights by the end of the week. Drought areas in Sherman County are expanding. Ontario recorded 107 growing degree days (base 50), highest over the week.

Field Crops: Spring wheat and barley planting was nearly complete. Above average temperatures and below average precipitation this spring have pushed crop development well ahead of last year. Winter wheat was just starting to produce heads in some areas. Reports indicate that grain and hay crops still look good in many areas, but most of the State would welcome some additional rain. In eastern Oregon, some first cutting alfalfa has been done. In western Oregon, some clover and alfalfa hay was being harvested. There were a few cases of stem rust reported in Marion County.

Vegetables: Willamette Valley vegetable planting was progressing on schedule. Washington County potatoes and sweet corn were emerging. Potatoes were being planted in central Oregon and winding down in Baker County. Potatoes were 20 percent planted in Klamath County and were emerging, along with onions, in Umatilla County. Josephine County truck gardeners were preparing soil for tomatoes, corn, beans, squash and pumpkins.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Nursery sales to eastern United States are winding down. However, greenhouses are still shipping lots of plants to the retail markets for the home gardener. Farmers markets are doing an excellent business selling plants to shoppers. Easter lily growers are doing routine field operations on the southern Oregon coast.

Fruit and Nuts: Strawberries continued in full bloom throughout the Willamette Valley; picking is expected to be early this year. Raspberries, blackberries, and caneberries were also in bloom. Hazelnuts were showing and cherries were noticeable on trees. Hood River County fruit development continued well ahead of schedule. Favorable weather allowed fruit growers to catch up on springtime mowing and spraying. Wasco County sweet cherry development continues to remain about ten days ahead of last year. Southern coast cranberry beds were in hook and early stages. First brood blackhead fireworm larvae were still active. Cranberry girdler moths were beginning to emerge. Symptoms of Lophodermium twig blight were present in some beds.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Pastures in western Oregon reported in good condition and holding up well to early season grazing. Rangeland in eastern Oregon continues to be reported in fair condition. Conditions are dry and most rangeland will need additional spring precipitation to avoid drying up early. Livestock producers reported that ponds in some areas are low for this time of year. Livestock were reported in good condition. Producers were busy branding and spring working of herds. Most cattle now turned out across the State.

Crop Progress - Week Ending 5/9/04

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
Barley planted (%)	88	85	71	88
Barley emerged (%)	65	63	50	—
Spring wheat planted (%)	97	95	91	96
Spring wheat emerged (%)	85	80	66	—
Winter wheat headed (%)	11	2	—	5
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.5	6.5	—	—

Soil Moisture - Week Ending 5/9/04

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	5	34	60	1
Subsoil (%)	7	36	55	2

Crop Condition - Week Ending 5/9/04

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat (%)	1	10	41	42	6
Barley (%)	—	4	35	41	20
Range & Pasture (%)	5	10	37	40	8

CLACKAMAS: Grain and hay crops still look good despite the lack of rain. Tree fruits have a good set so far. Strawberry picking is expected to be much earlier than normal, maybe two weeks. Caneberry blossoms are out in full force. Vegetable planting is progressing on schedule. Nursery sales and activities are proceeding on an order and need basis. Greenhouses trying to keep up with the needs of the retail trade and the opening of the many farmers markets. Livestock remain in good condition. Some dryland pastures are beginning to show signs of over grazing. The few showers during the past week were not sufficient to alleviate the lack of spring rainfall.

COOS/CURRY: Many cranberry beds were in hook and early bloom stages of development; first brood blackheaded fireworm larvae were still active; cranberry girdler moths were beginning to emerge; symptoms of Lophodermium twig blight were present in some beds. Easter lily growers in Curry County continued with routine fieldwork. Livestock: Good. Pastures are good to excellent; some fields planted to corn. Some showers, air temperatures about the same or slightly cooler, and soil temperatures somewhat warmer. Average air temperatures at coastal AgriMet weather stations ranged from 54.8 to 54.9 deg F; highs ranged from 64.4 to 64.9 deg F, and lows ranged from 42.4 to 43.5 deg F. Precipitation ranged from 0.18" at Brookings-Harbor to 0.40" at Bandon. Growing degree days (base 50 deg F) ranged from 41 GDD at Bandon to 44 GDD at Brookings-Harbor. Warm and dry weather persisted for the most part for the week. Agricultural and forestry officials continue concerns over drought conditions, which persist in both counties for the fourth consecutive year.

JOSEPHINE: Overcast with some showers latter part of week. Measurable precipitation on Thursday and Friday. Blueberries showing color. Apple trees are ready to be sprayed for apple maggot prevention. Truck gardeners are preparing soil for the heat loving plants like tomatoes, corn, beans, squash, pumpkins etc.

LANE/LINN/BENTON: Still in need of some good rains.

MARION: Recent rain showers have helped moisten soil surface and depending where you are maybe even enough to help out with filling root zone. Stem rust being seen in a number of perennial ryegrass fields, some fields already have been treated. First cutting alfalfa put up. Field crops in general still look quite good but will need more moisture to carry them through to harvest. Water being applied to grass seed fields where possible. All fruit, field, and nursery crops looking good, but the shortage of moisture is a concern for many of the non-irrigated crops.

WASHINGTON: Crimson clover in full bloom; alfalfa being cut for hay. Red clover nearing silage or haying stage. Small grains doing well, generally. Strawberries blooming, cane and blackberries early bloom. Hazelnuts showing. Cherries noticeable on trees. Potatoes emerging. Some corn poking through. Continuous rotation of potted plants, shipping plants and potted shrubs. Pastures holding up well to early grazing. Rain was welcome; need more at right time.

YAMHILL: This week's generally cool weather slowed down the development of degree days for insect and plant phonology. Some codling moth sprays were being applied. Crops are looking good. Grass is starting to head out. Reports of clover silage starting next week. Tree fruits looking great. Good pollination this year.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER: Grain and potato planting winding down. Irrigation continues. Cattle pretty well branded and turned out. Ranges are dry. South slopes and annual grasses are finished.

CROOK/DESCHUTES/JEFFERSON: Potatoes being planted. Some first cutting alfalfa taking place.

GILLIAM: Fields from Mikkalo north are beginning to show some drought stress in shallower soils. Arlington growing season precipitation is 2.5 inches below normal. Condon growing season precipitation is close to normal. A thunderstorm Friday evening produced hail up to 3/4 inches in diameter in the Condon area.

HARNEY: Spring grains being planted. Alfalfa and meadows being irrigated. Pastures already drying out and dusty. Grass still green. Windy, frost beginning of week. End of week warmer nights.

HOOD RIVER: Fruit crop development continues well ahead of average. Fair weather prevailed early in the week allowing fruit growers to catch up on springtime mowing and spraying. Unsettled weather later in the week included wet conditions over the weekend but duration of leaf wetness was not sufficient to initiate scab infection periods.

KLAMATH: Work in potato fields continues. Cooler temperatures were seen during this past week. Barley and other spring seeded crops are emerging. Irrigation continues. Alfalfa stands looking good. Field Crops: Spring planting progressing rapidly. Potatoes: Bedding and 20 percent planted. Most local cattle turned out. Movement from CA continues.

LAKE: Experienced windy conditions throughout most of the week. Received some much needed precipitation at the end of the week.

MALHEUR: Hot weather continued throughout last week. However, some rainfall seems to be on schedule for the following week. Some alfalfa down.

SHERMAN: Pretty much the same as last week. Rye started heading late last week and rye pulling begins this weekend. Need rain. Drought areas in crop expanding.

UMATILLA: First cutting of hay has started. Vegetable planting has finished, potatoes and onions have emerged, wind hazard has been high. Most people are estimating a below average wheat crop this year. A key element will be the amount of moisture and heat that will hit the county.

UNION: An excellent week to live and work in eastern Oregon. Not too hot, not too cold, but just right. Even got a little rain this week. The hills are green and everything in the valleys appears to be growing well. Fields are planted, irrigation systems are primed and ready for use or already being used. All that is left now is the growing.

WALLOWA: Not much change from last week. We still need some rain, but the forecast is for some to get here this weekend. Some livestock owners are reporting that ponds are very low for this time of year. Range conditions are improving slightly.

WASCO: Sweet cherry phonological development remains about 10 days ahead of last year. Cherry crop is looking moderately large, but not huge.

WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING May 9, 2004 (as of 11:00 am)

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	42	65	54	4	33	19	0.39	-0.35	5	56.31	-3.27	95	162
Crescent City	46	63	55	3	35	12	0.27	-0.48	3	52.04	-8.63	86	132
Florence	40	67	56	5	40	24	0.34	-0.57	5	66.15	-3.28	95	154
North Bend	45	64	55	4	38	17	0.39	-0.35	4	61.15	2.68	105	148
Tillamook	39	75	55	6	39	29	1.11	0.05	5	74.39	-4.77	94	166
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Corvallis	41	79	58	6	56	30	0.47	-0.02	3	28.76	-10.07	74	114
Eugene	38	74	56	2	41	9	0.94	0.42	4	35.72	-9.23	79	128
Hillsboro	41	75	57	5	50	22	0.66	0.28	4	28.37	-5.14	85	134
McMinnville	38	73	56	2	42	10	0.46	0.00	4	29.83	-9.89	75	131
Portland AP	45	76	61	6	76	38	0.36	-0.13	4	26.11	-5.63	82	128
Salem	37	75	56	4	44	20	0.78	0.36	3	34.54	-0.70	98	136
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	44	86	60	4	73	22	0.18	-0.10	3	26.88	-2.15	93	106
Medford	43	84	59	3	62	18	0.35	0.10	2	18.08	1.22	107	103
Roseburg AP	44	79	58	4	60	20	0.16	-0.21	2	30.64	0.74	102	124
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	35	77	54	6	33	20	0.19	-0.09	1	13.93	2.87	126	77
Heppner	40	81	58	5	54	25	0.03	-0.32	1	11.07	0.07	101	103
Hermiston AP	36	82	60	3	69	18	0.06	-0.08	1	8.15	0.68	109	75
John Day	35	79	57	6	52	31	0.00	-0.35	0	7.65	-1.79	81	89
Moro	35	75	55	5	37	18	0.08	-0.07	1	9.65	0.46	105	76
Pendleton AP	41	80	59	4	64	21	0.02	-0.22	1	10.34	0.47	105	80
The Dalles	43	81	60	9	73	49	0.15	0.01	2	12.36	1.72	116	93
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Bend	31	80	53	6	27	19	0.25	0.11	2	10.79	1.59	117	70
Burns AP	30	82	53	5	29	15	0.00	-0.21	0	6.89	-0.50	93	68
Klamath Falls	31	79	52	3	23	6	0.01	-0.15	1	10.60	-0.62	94	68
Lakeview	32	81	53	5	24	10	0.00	-0.28	0	8.17	-4.37	65	51
Redmond	30	80	51	3	14	0	0.11	-0.03	1	7.37	1.04	116	71
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	35	79	56	6	42	28	0.01	-0.24	1	4.96	-2.09	70	70
Joseph	37	78	57	12	50	50	0.05	-0.37	1	9.17	-10.57	46	91
La Grande AP	37	77	56	5	42	21	0.15	-0.20	1	8.57	-4.85	64	77
Union	35	78	57	7	51	37	0.19	-0.16	1	9.84	0.30	103	94
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	46	85	65	8	107	51	0.00	-0.14	0	6.89	-0.90	88	54
Rome	38	89	64	11	96	67	0.09	-0.12	1	4.38	-1.39	76	54

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Monday, September 1, 2003.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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